

Application Serial No. 10/783,112

Attorney Docket No. 200310901-1

REMARKS/ARGUMENTSClaim Status

Claims 1-33 are pending. Claims 1-33 stand rejected.

Claim 24 has been amended. No claims have been added or canceled.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-20, 23, and 27-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Bailey et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,012,435). More specifically, the Office Action asserts that "a plurality of overflow signals" reads on FIG. 1, elements 61-64 of Bailey; that "a plurality of periods" reads on the periods shown in FIG. 5 of Bailey; that "a plurality of control registers storing a plurality of selection values" reads on FIG. 8, elements 510a-c of Bailey; and that "a first trigger generator comprising first trigger generation means for generating a first timeout event trigger signal based on the plurality of overflow signals and a first one of the plurality of selection values" reads on FIG. 2 of Bailey.

Applicant disagrees with this interpretation of Bailey and respectfully traverses this rejection. The plurality of "periods" shown in FIG. 5 of Bailey, for example, are not a plurality of

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periods of a plurality of overflow signals, as expressly required by claim 1. The Office Action interprets signals 61-64 in FIG. 1 of Bailey as the "plurality of overflow signals." The "periods" shown in FIG. 5 are not the periods of signals 61-64 of FIG. 1. Rather, the "periods" shown in FIG. 5 are merely successive values of the clock signal output by the clock 40 (col. 5, lines 37-40). The Office Action fails to point to any correlation between these "periods" and the periods of the signals 61-64 output by the timer output logic 60. Furthermore, the Office Action fails to point to any teaching in Bailey that the signals 61-64 are periodic (i.e., have periods).

The Office Action, therefore, fails to demonstrate that Bailey teaches an express limitation of claim 1. Claim 1, therefore, patentably distinguishes over Bailey.

Furthermore, Bailey does not disclose generating a first timeout event trigger signal based on the plurality of overflow signals, as expressly required by claim 1. As described above, the Office Action interprets signals 61-64 in FIG. 1 of Bailey as "a plurality of overflow signals." As is clear from FIG. 1 and the accompanying description in Bailey, the signals 61-64 are the final output of the system shown in FIG. 1. Signals 61-64, in other words, are not provided as input to any other component of the

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system in FIG. 1. The system of FIG. 1, therefore, does not produce any signals based on signals 61-64.

For at least this reason, as well, the Office Action fails to demonstrate that Bailey discloses an express limitation of claim 1. Claim 1, therefore, patentably distinguishes over Bailey.

Claims 2-7 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1 and therefore patentably distinguish over Bailey for at least the same reasons.

Independent claim 10 includes the same relevant limitations as claim 1 and therefore patentably distinguishes over Bailey for at least the same reasons. Claims 11-19 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 10 and therefore patentably distinguish over Bailey for at least the same reasons.

Independent claim 20 includes the same relevant limitations as claim 1 and therefore patentably distinguishes over Bailey for at least the same reasons.

Applicant traverses the rejection of independent claim 23 for similar reasons. Claim 23, for example, recites "means for receiving a plurality of overflow signals." As explained above, the overflow signals 61-64 in FIG. 1 of Bailey are the final output of the system shown in FIG. 1, and are not received by any other component of the system. Bailey, therefore, fails to disclose an

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express element of claim 23. Claim 23, therefore, patentably distinguishes over Bailey.

Independent claim 27 includes the same relevant limitations as claim 23 and therefore patentably distinguishes over Bailey for at least the same reasons. Claim 28 depends from claim 27 and therefore patentably distinguishes over Bailey for at least the same reasons.

Independent claim 29 includes the same relevant limitations as claim 23 and therefore patentably distinguishes over Bailey for at least the same reasons. Claims 30-33 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 29 and therefore patentably distinguish over Bailey for at least the same reasons.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 21, 22, and 24-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bailey in view of Tamura et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,247,138).

Applicant traverses the rejection of claims 21, 22, and 24-26 for the same reasons provided above. The Office Action incorrectly asserts that Bailey discloses a device comprising "a plurality of data inputs to receive a plurality of overflow signals." As described above, the signals 61-64 (which the Office Action interprets as overflow signals) are the final output of the system

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shown in FIG. 1. The Office Action does not point to any disclosure or suggestion in Bailey of a multiplexer or any other component having inputs to receive the signals 61-64. Similarly, the Office Action does not point to any such teaching or suggestion in Tamura. The combination of Bailey and Tamura, therefore, fails to teach or suggest an express limitation of claim 21. Claim 21 therefore patentably distinguishes over the combination of Bailey and Tamura. Claim 22 depends from claim 21 and therefore patentably distinguishes over the combination of Bailey and Tamura for at least the same reason.

Claim 24, as amended, depends from claim 23 and therefore patentably distinguishes over the combination of Bailey and Tamura for at least the same reasons provided above with respect to claim 23.

Claim 25 includes the same relevant limitations as claim 21 and therefore patentably distinguishes over the combination of Bailey and Tamura for at least the same reasons. Claim 26 depends from claim 25 and therefore patentably distinguishes over the combination of Bailey and Tamura for at least the same reasons.

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CONCLUSIONS

Any dependent claims not specifically discussed above depend, either directly or indirectly, from the independent claims discussed above and therefore are patentable for at least the same reason(s).

If the Examiner wishes to discuss this Response, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicant's attorney at the phone number listed below.

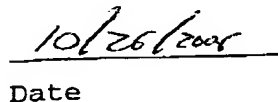
If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for extension of time is otherwise absent, applicant hereby requests any extension of time. Please charge any fees or make any credits, to Deposit Account No. 50/1797.

Respectfully submitted,



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